

This section, which is but a ghost of the proposal submitted by President Obama, is a small but important step in expanding the population eligible for full concurrent receipt. I'm glad some progress is being made.

What troubles and disappoints me most, however, is that this bill, which will be attached to the National Defense Authorization Act for 2010, could have done so much more had the Democratic leadership of the House made elimination of concurrent receipt and elimination of the widow's tax a priority from the beginning of this Congress.

Instead, we were unable to even debate my amendment at the full committee markup of the Defense Authorization dealing with concurrent receipt, the elimination of the Survivor Benefit Plan and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset is a widow's tax, the extension of health care to early retiring Reserve component members, and the use of the misnamed Reserve Fund in the budget resolution.

I would note that since the introduction of the amendment, the Democratic leadership has found a way to fund H.R. 2990, using resources and dollars outside the House Armed Services Committee jurisdiction to provide for just 9 months of very limited concurrent receipt for disabled military retirees.

While that is a step forward to eliminating some of the injustice inflicted on disabled retirees, it does nothing to cure the injustice still being suffered by most persons losing their rightly earned benefits because of the remaining concurrent receipt prohibitions.

Had the House leadership seen eliminating these injustices as a priority, they could have allocated a small percentage—less than 1 percent—necessary in the \$15 trillion they provided for government spending in 2010 to 2014. Or, they could have used the Reserve Fund authority as proposed in my amendment.

□ 1115

Instead we must settle for a small pittance for a small group of retirees. I hope that since the authority for this limited concurrent receipt is for only 9 months, that the Democratic leadership makes resolving all the concurrent receipt and SBP-DIC offset injustices a real, not a symbolic, priority next year. As a Nation, we owe more than our gratitude to the brave men and women in uniform and their families, past and present, for the sacrifices they make to protect our freedoms. I know firsthand of the courage of our troops. My late father-in-law Julian Dusenbury, a dedicated Marine, was awarded the Navy Cross for leading the capture of the Japanese headquarters of Shuri Castle in Okinawa. He was shot by a sniper, resulting in his being in a wheelchair for the rest of his life. He was grateful to have served America.

With that, Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia, Dr. BROWN.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to adjourn.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 73, nays 316, not voting 44, as follows:

[Roll No. 425]

YEAS—73

Aderholt	Garrett (NJ)	Pitts
Akin	Goodlatte	Radanovich
Alexander	Granger	Roe (TN)
Austria	Harper	Rogers (AL)
Barrett (SC)	Hastings (WA)	Ryan (WI)
Bartlett	Hensarling	Schmidt
Barton (TX)	Inglis	Schock
Blackburn	Issa	Sensenbrenner
Boehner	Jenkins	Sessions
Broun (GA)	Johnson, Sam	Shadegg
Burton (IN)	King (IA)	Shimkus
Calvert	Kingston	Shuster
Camp	Kline (MN)	Smith (NE)
Capito	Lamborn	Smith (TX)
Carter	Lewis (CA)	Souder
Chaffetz	McKeon	Stearns
Childers	McMorris	Teague
Clay	Rodgers	Thompson (PA)
Coffman (CO)	Miller, Gary	Thornberry
Cole	Neugebauer	Tiahrt
Deal (GA)	Nunes	Turner
Fallin	Olson	Wamp
Flake	Paul	Young (AK)
Fleming	Pence	Young (FL)
Galleghy	Petri	

NAYS—316

Abercrombie	Cassidy	Forbes
Ackerman	Castle	Fortenberry
Adler (NJ)	Costor (FL)	Foster
Altmire	Chandler	Fox
Andrews	Cleaver	Franks (AZ)
Arcuri	Clyburn	Frelinghuysen
Baca	Coble	Fudge
Bachmann	Cohen	Gerlach
Baird	Conaway	Giffords
Baldwin	Connolly (VA)	Gonzalez
Barrow	Cooper	Gordon (TN)
Bean	Costello	Graves
Becerra	Courtney	Grayson
Berkley	Crenshaw	Green, Al
Berry	Crowley	Green, Gene
Biggart	Cuellar	Griffith
Bilbray	Culberson	Guthrie
Bilirakis	Cummings	Gutierrez
Bishop (GA)	Dahlkemper	Hall (NY)
Bishop (NY)	Davis (AL)	Hall (TX)
Bishop (UT)	Davis (CA)	Halvorson
Blumenauer	Davis (IL)	Hare
Blunt	Davis (KY)	Hastings (FL)
Bocchieri	Davis (TN)	Heinrich
Bonner	DeFazio	Heller
Bono Mack	DeGette	Hergert
Boozman	DeLauro	Herseth Sandlin
Boren	Dent	Hill
Boswell	Diaz-Balart, L.	Himes
Boustany	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hinchey
Boyd	Dicks	Hinojosa
Brady (PA)	Dingell	Hirono
Braley (IA)	Doggett	Hodes
Bright	Donnelly (IN)	Hoekstra
Brown (SC)	Dreier	Holden
Brown, Corrine	Driehaus	Holt
Brown-Waite,	Duncan	Honda
Ginny	Edwards (MD)	Hunter
Buchanan	Ehlers	Inslee
Butterfield	Ellison	Israel
Buyer	Ellsworth	Jackson (IL)
Cantor	Emerson	Jackson-Lee
Cao	Engel	(TX)
Capps	Eshoo	Johnson (GA)
Capuano	Etheridge	Johnson, E. B.
Carnahan	Farr	Jones
Carney	Fattah	Jordan (OH)
Carson (IN)	Filner	Kagen

Kanjorski	Michaud	Salazar
Kaptur	Miller (FL)	Sanchez, Linda
Kildee	Miller (MI)	T.
Kilpatrick (MI)	Miller, George	Sanchez, Loretta
Kilroy	Minnick	Scalise
Kind	Mitchell	Schakowsky
King (NY)	Mollohan	Schauer
Kirk	Moore (KS)	Schiff
Kirkpatrick (AZ)	Moran (KS)	Schrader
Kissell	Murphy (NY)	Schwartz
Klein (FL)	Murphy, Patrick	Scott (GA)
Kosmas	Murphy, Tim	Scott (VA)
Kratovil	Murtha	Serrano
Kucinich	Myrick	Sestak
Lance	Nadler (NY)	Sherman
Langevin	Napolitano	Shuler
Larsen (WA)	Neal (MA)	Simpson
Larson (CT)	Nye	Sires
Latham	Oberstar	Skelton
LaTourette	Obey	Slaughter
Latta	Ortiz	Smith (NJ)
Lee (CA)	Pallone	Smith (WA)
Lee (NY)	Pastor (AZ)	Snyder
Levin	Paulsen	Space
Linder	Payne	Speier
Lipinski	Perlmuter	Spratt
LoBiondo	Perriello	Stark
Loeback	Peters	Sutton
Lofgren, Zoe	Peterson	Tanner
Lowey	Pingree (ME)	Tauscher
Luetkemeyer	Platts	Taylor
Lujan	Poe (TX)	Terry
Lummis	Polis (CO)	Thompson (CA)
Lungren, Daniel	Pomeroy	Tiberi
E.	Posey	Titus
Lynch	Price (GA)	Tonko
Mack	Price (NC)	Towns
Maffei	Putnam	Tsongas
Manzullo	Quigley	Upton
Markey (CO)	Rahall	Van Hollen
Markey (MA)	Rangel	Velázquez
Marshall	Rehberg	Visclosky
Massa	Reichert	Walden
Matheson	Reyes	Walz
McCarthy (CA)	Richardson	Wasserman
McCarthy (NY)	Rodriguez	Schultz
McClintock	Rogers (KY)	Waters
McCollum	Rogers (MI)	Watt
McCotter	Rohrabacher	Weiner
McDermott	Rooney	Welch
McGovern	Ros-Lehtinen	Westmoreland
McHugh	Roskam	Wexler
McIntyre	Ross	Whitfield
McMahon	Rothman (NJ)	Wilson (OH)
McNerney	Roybal-Allard	Wilson (SC)
Meek (FL)	Royce	Wittman
Meeks (NY)	Ruppersberger	Wolf
Melancon	Rush	Woolsey
Mica	Ryan (OH)	Wu

NOT VOTING—44

Bachus	Gohmert	Moore (WI)
Berman	Grijalva	Moran (VA)
Boucher	Harman	Murphy (CT)
Brady (TX)	Higgins	Oliver
Burgess	Hoyer	Pascarell
Campbell	Johnson (IL)	Sarbanes
Cardoza	Kennedy	Shea-Porter
Clarke	Lewis (GA)	Stupak
Conyers	Lucas	Sullivan
Costa	Maloney	Thompson (MS)
Delahunt	Marchant	Tierney
Doyle	Matsui	Watson
Edwards (TX)	McCaul	Waxman
Frank (MA)	McHenry	Yarmuth
Gingrey (GA)	Miller (NC)	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Florida) (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1140

Messrs. BUYER, BONNER, BOYD, POMEROY, Mrs. BIGGERT, Messrs. PETERSON, CANTOR, DICKS, WEST-MORELAND, and Ms. HIRONO changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the motion to adjourn was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 425, I was attending a classified briefing. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

DISABLED MILITARY RETIREE RELIEF ACT OF 2009

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER). The gentleman from Missouri has 16 minutes remaining; the gentleman from South Carolina has 16¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This is a very, very important bill, particularly important to disabled American veterans. I notice we have had two adjournment motions already. I hope we can take this bill up because those young and young women deserve it.

Special thanks to the Speaker, Leader HOYER, Chairman TOWNS, Chairman SPRATT, Chairman RAHALL, Chairman GORDON, Chairman WAXMAN, Chairman MARKEY, Mr. LYNCH, SUSAN DAVIS, and Mr. EDWARDS for all the help that they have given us on this very complicated, very important matter for our disabled veterans.

At this time, Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my friend and colleague, the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS).

Mr. TOWNS. I thank the gentleman from Missouri for yielding.

Madam Speaker, as Chair of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, I rise in support of H.R. 2990. I am pleased the legislation we are considering today will assist the men and women of our Armed Forces by permitting disabled military retirees to receive both their disability compensation and their retired pay concurrently.

Let me pause and thank Chairman SKELTON for working closely with the Oversight Committee on title II of this legislation. Title II makes several positive changes to the retirement system for Federal employees. These changes will enhance the system's efficiency and effectiveness as a recruiting and management tool when we need to be attracting the best and the brightest to the Federal workforce.

Most of title II's provisions were included in H.R. 1804, a bill I sponsored that passed the House by a unanimous voice vote on April 1. After passing the House, the retirement provisions were added to the landmark tobacco legislation that President Obama signed into law this week. Unfortunately, they were removed for procedural reasons in the Senate version of the tobacco bill that President Obama signed.

I am delighted we have the opportunity to consider these measures again today. Title II includes provisions to eliminate inconsistency in the way part-time service, breaks in service, and unused sick leave are considered in calculating retirement benefits.

These provisions will help employees and managers plan for a wave of upcoming retirements and encourage highly talented individuals to return to government service.

I thank the staff of both committees. I thank Chairman SKELTON for his support. And I urge all of my colleagues to vote for this very important legislation. And I hope that the other side stops calling for adjournments because this bill is very, very important and we need to move it forward.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL).

□ 1145

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I stand here to speak on this bill. I have some misgivings about it. But I intend to vote for this bill. I can't vote against this bill because it benefits people that have served this country and that have suffered for this country. And I have never, in the 28 years I have been here, voted for a bill that affected adversely any veteran or any person that stood up for this country, and I admire and respect Mr. SKELTON, the author of this bill. I disagree with the way he has funded it and want to point that out.

I would also point out that I have a letter addressed to Mr. SKELTON. He has not had the time to receive it because this bill was introduced yesterday, and it is on the floor today. That is a little hasty. But this is an important bill, and it is a bill that needs to be passed. But I'm torn today as I rise to speak on H.R. 2990. On the one hand, I support the revisions in the bill, retired pay benefits for Reserve members and compensation and benefits for servicemembers. But where I'm torn is how the chairman, my good friend, Mr. SKELTON, chose to pay for the compensation and benefits provided under the bill.

I will first point out that this is a bill for the veterans, and this is a bill for those that probably without this bill would not have the assistance that they need, that they deserve and that they are entitled to.

I would also say that as a veteran of World War II, and probably one of about four or five on this floor still here, five or six over in the Senate, there are not very many of us left, but I take no backseat to anybody in supporting veterans. I have a veterans' hospital that my predecessor, Sam Rayburn, provided and benefited. And I have had the pleasure of walking in a mass of walkathons to preserve that hospital, from Bonham, Texas, where Mr. Rayburn lived, to Dallas, to protest cuts in it, as anybody here would. Anybody on this floor has to support the purpose of this bill, which is for those that are suffering.

The major desire of those that have served in any war is that no other generation would have to fight such a war and that we remove the causes of war.

And probably the greatest duty of a Member of Congress is to prevent a war. And how do you prevent a war? You prevent a war by removing the causes of it. And energy itself, or the lack of it, has been the cause of most wars that I know anything about. Japan didn't hate this country. Japan loved this country. But our country had cut off their access to oil. They had 13 months' national existence. We had to know that Japan would break out somewhere. That was a war over energy, not the hatred of the United States of America. Twelve or fourteen years ago, George Bush, Senior, sent 450,000 of our troops over to Kuwait. That was not a battle for the emir of Kuwait. We don't care anything at all about the emir of Kuwait. That was to keep a bad guy, Saddam Hussein, from getting his foot on half the known mineral reserves and energy of that area over there. That was a war for energy.

So I have a bill that I passed. I passed it as a Democrat once, it failed, it didn't get through. I passed it as a Republican with Democratic and Republican support. It passed this body. The chairman, IKE SKELTON, voted for it at the time. And that bill is now under way. And I want to say a few words about that bill because I think you're entitled to know, and I'm very hopeful that the other body will look closely at this. And I'm going to be working toward that. I haven't had the time or the opportunity to work toward it, and neither did I have the incentive to do anything to kill this bill.

I urge everybody within the sound of my voice to vote for this bill and to commend IKE SKELTON for his leadership and his devotion to the men and women that fight for this country and care for this country.

I think unfortunately regarding this bill, he chose to redirect the funds which by law, Public Law 109-58, a law that passed the House 275-156, a law that Chairman SKELTON voted for, are reserved for the Ultra-Deepwater and Unconventional Onshore Natural Gas and Other Petroleum Research and Development Program, also known as section 999.

Now the hard, cold facts about it that brought that bill into being was that we can get energy up from the coastal waters. We can get it up to around 80 or 90, 900 feet. And this bill, without the technology, could not get it to the surface where we could benefit from it. But we knew that the energy was there. And we knew that technology was there. And the bill I introduced is not an energy bill nor a technology bill. It puts the two together. And it pays universities, and there are 26 universities in this country, and I'm going to mention some of those in a few minutes, that stepped forward, that are working within this bill and have put 3 years work into it.

I just think that we need to remember section 999. It has achieved a lot since its enactment. It passed, and it passed the bill. It was in the bill that